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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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TOP SECRET CONTROL
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, GSUSA

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: TM-202: Review of CIA Estimate ORE 60-48: Threats to the Security of the United States (Published 28 September 1948) Revised Draft.

1. Reference is made to CIA Memorandum, subject as above, dated 10 August 1949.

2. The Intelligence Division, GSUSA substantially dissents from those parts of the Memorandum which, in referring to ORE 60-48, imply that the U.S.S.R. is unlikely within the next decade to resort to war, unless it believed itself to be in imminent danger of attack by the Western Powers. In view of the highly complex and explosive situations, currently existing in Germany, the Balkans and the Far East, and the uncertainty that Soviet Communist leaders can obtain their essential intermediate objectives within the next ten years without resort to arms, the Intelligence Division believes it is extremely unwise to conclude without qualification that the U.S.S.R. is unlikely to resort to war to gain its ends for a period as long as ten years.

3. The Intelligence Division further disagrees with the positive statement in paragraph 5 that the danger of war will be less during the next year or two than at any time in recent years. Although a number of recent developments are cited as evidence of reduced tension and lessened likelihood of a Soviet political decision to resort to war, an equally impressive list of indications in the contrary direction could be drawn up.

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The fact remains that the military balance of power has not improved in favor of the West in the past year or two; if anything, it has shifted in favor of the U.S.S.R. because of Communist victories in China and the continuing rearmament and streamlining of the Soviet Armed Forces. Short-range actions and attitudes of the U.S.S.R. in the international field, however peaceful or conciliatory in appearance, are tactical moves and may have little or no bearing on Soviet military intentions.

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S. LEROY IRWIN
Major General, GSC
Director of Intelligence

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